

AHCCCS NATIVE HEALTH NEWS

AUGUST 2006



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FROM THE AHCCCS DIRECTOR

Working in health care for the past 25 years has presented many highlights, however, leading AHCCCS the past three years has been particularly rewarding. AHCCCS has a strong interest in improving the health status of our AHCCCS members.

It is well documented that the health disparities among the Native American population varies greatly from that of the rest of the population. It is also true that there exists an increasing need for health care services in Native American communities.

With this in mind, AHCCCS has been working with the tribes and the Indian Health Service

(IHS) to identify areas of opportunity to improve the quality of and accessibility to care for Native American AHCCCS members. Technology is undoubtedly the wave of the future. Electronic health records and E-prescribing are examples of many ways we can make these improvements. I am encouraged by the progress that is being made one step at a time. Together we have been able to achieve small scale, but meaningful changes.

I am also enthusiastic that Carol Chicharello has joined our agency as the AHCCCS Tribal Relations Liaison. She is a great asset to our team. She is the liaison between

AHCCCS, tribes, IHS, and other health providers. Like me, she is committed to ensuring dialogue between AHCCCS and the Native American community. One of the ways in which we plan to share information is by launching a web-page on our AHCCCS website specifically for our Native American providers. AHCCCS will continue to send you updates on initiatives and other valuable news.

With this, I look forward to building and strengthening lasting partnerships with the tribes, IHS, urban Indian health programs and other providers.

- Anthony D. Rodgers

AHCCCS HOSTS CONFERENCE CALL FOR TRIBES AND IHS TO DISCUSS NEW FEDERAL REQUIREMENTS

All members and applicants must submit proof of citizenship and identity at time of application or redetermination beginning July 1, 2006.

As a result of a new federal law, Medicaid members and applicants must begin submitting documentation of **citizenship and identity** to be eligible for AHCCCS.

As was explained to participating tribes and IHS during conference calls held on May 22 and July 6, the new requirements take effect **July 1,**

2006. For new applicants, documentation is required at the time of application. For current members up for redetermination on or after July 1, 2006, documentation must be submitted within the time frame given on the renewal letter. The population who is exempt from this process are persons who receive SSI cash

assistance and/or enrolled in Medicare.

AHCCCS has developed a list of documents that appear to be acceptable. The list is included on page 3 of this newsletter. It is important to note that this list may change when final regulations are given by the federal government. If any

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ADVISORY COUNCIL ON INDIAN HEALTH CARE SPRINGS INTO ACTION

Spring is the season for re-growth and new beginnings. What better time for the Advisory Council on Indian Health Care (ACOIHC) to begin working on its plans for the upcoming fiscal year?

The ACOIHC is working on a new 5-year strategic plan, which it plans to have in place in state fiscal year 2006. The Council has recently appointed Fred

Hubbard who will serve as the new Executive Director and will work toward meeting the Council's goals and objectives.

The ACOIHC was created by the State Legislature in 1989. Its members are appointed by the Governor with the goal of serving as a resource and advocate on Indian health care issues.

The Council has 23 seats: 20

tribal members appointed by the Governor and one representative from AHCCCS, the Arizona Department of Health Services, and the Department of Economic Security. For more information on the Advisory Council on Indian Health Care, contact Sandy Chismark at the Governor's Office. She can be reached at (602) 542-1340.

GOVERNOR ADVOCATES FOR URBAN INDIAN CLINIC FUNDING

As many know, the President's proposed 2007 budget calls for elimination of funding of Urban Indian Health Programs (UIHP) within the Indian Health Service (IHS) Budget.

Having a strong interest in this issue, Governor Napolitano sent a letter to President Bush expressing her "deep concern" over the proposed elimination of funding.

Stakeholders fear, if program funding is eliminated, that urban Indians will not have the same access to health care and will have to return to their reservations for care; receive care that is not culturally appropriate; or ultimately, not receive care they need.

Over half of American Indians reside in urban areas. Furthermore, approximately 40% of Native American

AHCCCS members reside off reservation.

The Governor further stated that, "we as a nation, should provide those services to the more than one million American Indians/ Alaska Natives currently living in communities served by UIHPs."

Native Health (NACHCI), Tucson Indian Center, and Native Americans for Community Action

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substantive changes occur, AHCCCS will issue new materials.

AHCCCS is aware that there will be difficulties for some older American Indians to produce the documentation required. AHCCCS is working to address this concern. It is a priority for the agency that eligible U.S. Citizens continue to have access to their health coverage.

For those who missed the conference calls, AHCCCS is willing to coordinate community briefings on the new requirements. For more information, please contact Carol Chicharello.

FEDERAL LAW REQUIRES PROOF OF CITIZENSHIP FOR AHCCCS ELIGIBILITY BEGINNING JULY 1, 2006

WHAT DOCUMENTS ARE REQUIRED?

ACCEPTABLE DOCUMENTS FOR PROOF OF U.S. CITIZENSHIP & IDENTITY

- U.S. Passport
- U.S. Naturalization Certificate issued by USCIS
- Certificate of Citizenship issued by USCIS


 Most Reliable

PROOF OF U.S. CITIZENSHIP (IDENTITY PROOF IS ALSO NEEDED)

- U.S. Birth Certificate
- Certification or Report of Birth Abroad issued by USCIS or the Department of State
- U.S. Citizen ID Card issued by USCIS
- American Indian Card issued by USCIS for the Kickapoo Tribe
- Final Adoption Decree
- Evidence of Civil Service employment by the U.S. Government before 6/1/1976
- Official Military Record of Service showing U.S. place of birth (i.e. a DD-214)
- Northern Mariana ID card issued by USCIS to a naturalized citizen born before 11/4/1986

- Extract of U.S. hospital birth record established at the time of birth
- Life, health, or other insurance record showing U.S. place of birth
(Both must have been created at least 5 years before initial AHCCCS application date)

- Census Records showing U.S. place of birth
- Nursing home records, medical records, or other documents showing U.S. place of birth created at least 5 years before initial AHCCCS application date
- Bureau of Indian Affairs tribal census records (Navajo & Seneca tribes only)
- Written affidavit (see eligibility specialist for details about who/when a member or applicant can use)


 Least Reliable

PROOF OF IDENTITY (PROOF OF U.S. CITIZENSHIP IS ALSO NEEDED)

- Driver License
- Certain government issued ID cards with photo (if no photo, must include same identifying information as a Driver License)
- Tribal government issued ID and documents, including Certificate of Indian Blood
- Day care or nursery record (minors only)
- School record or report card (under 16 only)
- School ID with picture
- U.S. Military ID, Dependent ID, or U.S. Military Draft Record (Over 16 years only)
- U.S. Coast Guard Merchant Mariner Card

it is important to refer to the Fact Sheet posted on the AHCCCS website for most recent updates at www.azahcccs.gov. This policy is subject to change based on information AHCCCS receives from the Federal Government.

- ⇒ For Birth Certificates (Born in Arizona): AHCCCS and DES can help verify Arizona births with specific information. Contact the local office for further information.
- ⇒ For Birth Certificates (Born outside Arizona): Contact Vital Records in the state of birth. For state contact information go to www.azahcccs.gov.
- ⇒ For Naturalization Documents: Contact the U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services (USCIS) at www.uscis.gov or 1-800-375-5283.

NEWS FROM THE MEDICAL DIRECTOR

It gives me great pleasure to write this first article for "NATIVE HEALTH NEWS." I have served as Medical Director for AHCCCS for eighteen months and have thoroughly enjoyed this position.

What has been professionally satisfying is working closely with the Division of Fee for Service Management (DFSM) in addressing the challenges in Native health. DFSM is the Division of AHCCCS that is responsible for the administration and management of the fee for service program or IHS/AHCCCS. We are all aware that Native people suffer higher rates of diabetes,

chronic disease, drug abuse and trauma. For these reasons DFSM has taken on the responsibility to help improve medical care provided to Native people by collaborating with Indian Health Service and Tribal health facilities to work out issues related to reimbursement, which in turn can expand their health services.

As Medical Director I also attempt to keep you informed of current health issues in our community. For instance last year, Arizona experienced a pertussis (whooping cough) epidemic with 959 cases. Currently, there is an outbreak of mumps in the Midwest.

There are vaccines that can prevent these types of diseases, which continue to be present. Therefore it is important to make sure you and your children's vaccinations are current. For more information on immunizations and the outbreaks of mumps call 1-800-CDC-INFO (800-232-4636) or visit the website: www.cdc.gov/nip.

Finally, health is all about making the right life style choices. Taking a moment to relax, exercise or eat nutritious foods will make a significant impact on your health each day. Live healthy!

**Contributed by John Molina,
AHCCCS Medical Director.**

**"DFSM has
taken on the
responsibility to
help improve
medical care
provided to
Native people..."**

AHCCCS WILL REQUIRE PROVIDER IDENTIFIER FOR CLAIMS

It will be here sooner than we realize - a new requirement for claims to include a National Provider Identifier. This comes from the federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) which mandates adoption of a standard unique health identifier for health care providers nationwide. The federal government adopted the National Provider Identifier (NPI) as this identifier in January of 2004.

Standards such as the NPI were established to improve electronic transactions and the overall efficiency of the nation's health care system. The NPI will eliminate the need for health care providers to use different identification numbers to identify themselves for standard transactions with multiple health plans including Medicare, Medicaid, and private health insurers.

HIPAA covered entities must use NPIs to identify health care providers, including individuals and organizations, in standard transactions such as: claims, eligibility inquiries and responses, claim status inquiries and responses, referrals, and remittance advises.

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services started assigning NPI numbers last May. Health care providers may apply for a NPI through a web-based or paper application. These may be accessed at:

<https://nppes.cms.hhs.gov>.

AHCCCS will require the NPI number to be used as the healthcare provider identifier in all claim submissions starting in May 2007.

AHCCCS is requesting that providers send us a copy of their NPI notification. AHCCCS can only accept copies of the NPI notification mailed to the provider from the NPI Enumerator. The AHCCCS provider ID number also needs to be included in the email for identification purposes. Please email the notification to: NationalProviderID@azahcccs.gov or mail or fax the written notification to:

AHCCCS Provider Registration Unit, PO Box 25520, Phoenix, AZ 85002 ; FAX (602) 256-1474.

Mailed submissions must include the provider name, AHCCCS provider ID number, NPI Number, and signature of the provider or authorized signer.

AHCCCS is targeting January 1, 2007 as the optional claims and encounter submission date. Effective May 23, 2007, all claims and encounters must be submitted with the NPI when applicable.

For more information, visit www.cms.hhs.gov/hipaa/hipaa2.

KEY AHCCCS CONTACTS:

AHCCCS Main (602) 417-4000; (800) 654-8713

Office of Intergovernmental Relations—

Tribal Relations Liaison (602)417-4610

Arizona Long Term Care System—

Tribal Case Management Coordinator (602) 417-4302

Member Services (602) 417-7070

Enrollment Changes (800) 334-5283

Verification of Enrollment (602) 417-7000; (800) 962-6690

Prior Authorization (602) 417-4400

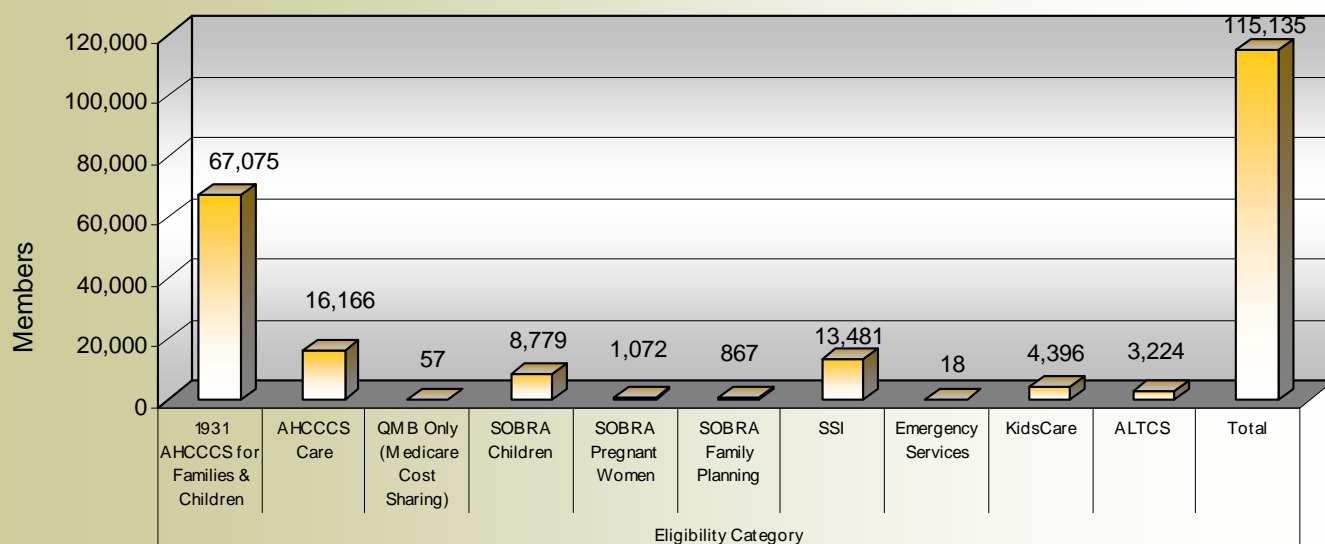
Provider Services (602) 417-7670; (800) 794-6862

Claims: Option 4; Provider Reg.: Option 5



Carol Chicharello, Tribal Relations Liaison

NATIVE AMERICAN MEMBERS BY ELIGIBILITY CATEGORY (AS OF 07.01.06)



AHCCCS RECEIVES AWARD FROM TUCSON AREA IHS

The Tucson Area Indian Health Service presented AHCCCS with a Director's Merit Award for "sustained leadership, commitment, dedication and support of" the mission of IHS and the Tucson Area Indian Health Service (IHS).

The Tucson Area IHS honored a number of outstanding individuals at the Area Director's Awards Ceremony held



Dr. John Molina, AHCCCS Medical Director, accepts the Director's Merit Award from Taylor Satala on behalf of AHCCCS. Wilma Mankiller (standing at the far left) was the keynote speaker for the awards ceremony.

[Photo courtesy of the Tucson Area Indian Health Service.]

on July 14, 2006 at the Westin La Paloma Resort in Tucson, Arizona.

Three current AHCCCS staff persons and one former AHCCCS employee received individual Director's Merit Awards for their coordination with the Tucson Area IHS.

We are on the web!

Visit us at: www.azahcccs.gov

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**OUR FIRST CARE IS YOUR
HEALTH CARE.**



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

August 23	<u>IHS/AHCCCS Monthly Meeting/Workshop</u>	
	AHCCCS Central Office	Phoenix, AZ
Sept 27	<u>IHS/AHCCCS Monthly Meeting/Workshop</u>	
	AHCCCS Central Office	Phoenix, AZ
Oct 25	<u>IHS/AHCCCS Monthly Meeting/Workshop</u>	
	AHCCCS Central Office	Phoenix, AZ

For more information or to be added to the distribution list for the IHS/AHCCCS Monthly Meetings/Workshops, you may contact Cesle Bustillos at (602) 417-4081 or Carol Chicharello at (602) 417-4610.

